

Appl. No. 10/017,894
Amdt. Dated June 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (currently amended): The absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the multiple property fastener defines a fastener longitudinal direction, a fastener lateral direction and a fastener area, and there is one said engagement zone covering one half of the fastener area in the fastener longitudinal direction and there is one said non-abrasive zone covering the other half of the fastener area in the fastener longitudinal direction.

Claim 3. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein there is one engagement zone covering one half of the fastener area in the fastener lateral direction and there is one non-abrasive zone covering the other half of the fastener area in the fastener lateral direction.

Claim 4. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein there is one engagement zone covering a central portion of the fastener area and there is one non-abrasive zone covering a perimeter that surrounds the central portion of the fastener area.

Claim 5. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the fastener has a top portion, a longitudinal center portion and a bottom portion with the engagement zone covering the center portion and non-abrasive zones covering the top portion and the bottom portion.

Claim 6. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the fastener has an exterior portion, a lateral center portion and an interior portion with the engagement zone covering the center portion and non-abrasive zones covering the exterior portion and the interior portion.

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (canceled)

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Claim 9. (previously presented): The absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the first mechanical fastening material is made from a polypropylene copolymer.

Claim 10. (previously presented): The absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the second mechanical fastening material is made from a polymer selected from elastomeric thermoplastic polymers and metallocene catalyzed polymers.

Claim 11. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein the absorbent article further includes an engagement surface on the exterior surface that extends beyond the pair of laterally opposed side edges to form a pair of front ear portions.

Claim 12. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein the engagement surface is a loop material.

Claim 13. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein the engagement surface is an outer cover material.

Claim 14. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 11 wherein the front ear portion has an edge and the fastener area of the multiple property fastener is within about 2.54 cm of the edge of the front ear portion.

Claim 15. (previously presented): The absorbent article of claim 22 wherein the multiple property fastener is engageable into the front waist region of the article.

Claim 16. (previously presented): The absorbent article of claim 22 wherein the multiple property fastener is engageable into the back waist region of the article.

Claim 17. (previously presented): The absorbent article of claim 22 wherein the multiple property fastener has a top edge that is generally aligned with one of the waist edges of the article.

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Claim 18. (withdrawn): A pant-like, prefastened, disposable absorbent article including an absorbent, a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that extends between and connects the waist regions, a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction, an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite the exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges, the absorbent article further comprising:

a) a fastening feature including a fastener having a fastener area and an engagement component, wherein:

i) the engagement component extends laterally beyond the side edges of the article to form a front ear portion in the front waist region; and

ii) the fastener is oversized to provide stability between the front waist region and the back waist region and to maintain the pant-like, prefastened configuration.

Claim 19. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein the front ear portion has an edge and the fastener area of the fastener is within about 1 inch (2.54 cm) of the edge of the front ear portion.

Claim 20. (withdrawn): The absorbent article of claim 18 wherein the fastener has a top edge that is generally aligned with one of the waist edges of the article.

Claim 21. (withdrawn): The pant-like, prefastened, disposable absorbent article of claim 18 wherein the fastener includes at least one engagement zone of a first mechanical fastening material; and at least one non-abrasive zone of a second mechanical fastening material.

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Claim 22. (currently amended): A pant-like, prefastened, disposable absorbent article including an absorbent, a front waist region, a back waist region, a crotch region that extends between and connects the waist regions, a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction, an exterior surface, an interior surface opposite the exterior surface, a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally opposed waist edges, the absorbent article further comprising:

a multiple property fastener attached in one of the front waist region and the back waist region, the multiple property fastener defining a fastener longitudinal direction, a fastener lateral direction and a fastener area, the multiple property fastener further comprising at least two zones, at least one engagement zone of a first mechanical fastening material and at least one non-abrasive zone of a second mechanical fastening material wherein the first mechanical fastening material is comprised of a polymeric material selected to have a flexural modulus greater than about 30 kilopounds per square inch and the second mechanical fastening material is comprised of a polymeric material selected to have a flexural modulus between about 7 kilopounds per square inch and about 30 kilopounds per square inch.